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Page: 1

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 03466 172139Z  
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-01	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CTME-00	INL-00
	DODE-00	DOT-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EXIM-01	E-00
	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	FBO-00	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	ITC-01	JUSE-00	LAB-01	VCE-00	MMP-00	AC-01
	NSAE-00	OES-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PC-01	ACE-00	SCT-00
	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00
	ASDS-01	DSCC-00	LBA-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00

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O 172053Z APR 01  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0954  
INFO USDOC WASHDC  
DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
CIA WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC  
NSC WASHDC  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 003466

STATE FOR WHA/AND, WHA/ESPC, DS/DSS/OSAC, DS/DSS/ITA  
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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 03466 172139Z  
AND DS/OP/WHA  
STATE PASS OPIC FOR DMORENESE  
STATE PASS EXIMBANK FOR AMERICAS DIVISION  
COMMERCE FOR 4331/IEP/OLA/AND/JANGLIN AND FOR  
3134/USFCS/IOI/WH/DLUTTER  
ENERGY FOR GARY WARD AND ERIKA BENSON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/16/06  
TAGS: PTER, PINR, EPET, ENRG, ECON, KPRP, ASEC, CO  
SUBJECT: MASS KIDNAPPING OF OXY CONTRACTORS

REF: A) BOGOTA 2575, B) BOGOTA 1947, C) 00 BOGOTA 10919

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 1

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMB. ANNE PATTERSON FOR REASONS  
1.5 (B,D)

2. (C) EMBASSY HAS BEEN ADVISED BY OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM'S (OXY) LOCAL MANAGEMENT THAT DURING THE AFTERNOON SHIFT CHANGE ON APRIL 16, 130 OF ITS LOCAL CONTRACT EMPLOYEES WERE KIDNAPPED BY A GROUP SUSPECTED OF BEING THE ELN. ALL THE HOSTAGES ARE LOCAL COLOMBIAN CONTRACTORS; NO FOREIGNERS WERE TAKEN. BY MIDNIGHT, THE CAPTORS RELEASED 103 HOSTAGES WITHOUT ANY DEMANDS OR STATEMENTS. [REDACTED]

4. (C) THE KIDNAPPING COMES AFTER A SERIES OF BOMBINGS ON THE CANO LIMON PIPELINE, AS A RESULT OF WHICH OXY HAS ONLY PUMPED FOR 30 HOURS SINCE FEBRUARY 1. TO PROTECT ITSELF FROM LIABILITY FOR NON-DELIVERY, ON MARCH 1, OXY INVOKED THE FORCE MAJEURE CLAUSE OF ITS CONTRACTS (REF C). BECAUSE OF THE LEGAL PROTECTION FORCE MAJEURE PROVIDES, OXY IS UNWILLING TO RESTART PRODUCTION UNTIL IT IS CONFIDENT ITS WHOLE OPERATION IS SECURE. DURING A MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON APRIL 16 (SEPTTEL), MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES VALENCIA COSSIO STATED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WANTS TO GET OPERATIONS STARTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE COLOMBIA CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE USD 3 MILLION A DAY IN NON-PRODUCTION. THE MINISTER SAID THAT HE HAS BEEN PERSONALLY TASKED BY THE PRESIDENT TO FIND A SOLUTION TO OXY'S CURRENT SPATE OF SECURITY PROBLEMS (REFS A-C), BUT HAD NO CONCRETE SOLUTIONS TO SHARE AS OF YET.

5. THE KIDNAPPING AND THE FIGHTING IN THE SOUTH OF BOLIVAR HAVE PROMPTED THE RETURN OF UN SPECIAL ADVISORS JAMES LEMOYNE AND JAN EGELAND, WHO WILL MEET WITH ELN LEADERSHIP APRIL 18.

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL **UNCLASSIFIED**  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 2001BOGOTA03466

Page: 3  
Channel: n/a

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PAGE 04            BOGOTA   03466   172139Z

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Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 3

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